

Yellow Medicine County Board Minutes

October 28, 2003

Chairman Gary Johnson called this regular meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. with Commissioners Louis Sherlin, Lynn Anderson, Jane Remiger, and Ron Antony present. Administrator John Chattin, Bethany Norgaard of the Marshall Independent, and Dan McGonigle of the Granite Falls Advocate Tribune were also present.

Several additional agenda items were offered including: an Area Agency on Aging (AAA) update; status of Clarkfield building; and Redwood County Board Chairman Brian Kletscher on a proposed Waste to Energy facility.

10-28-03-01 Motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Ms. Remiger to approve the agenda with the additional items offered. Carried.

Two changes, in reference to the construction fund versus the construction account, were made to the October 14th minutes. Mike Price, of the Belview Snowflinders, was also present to answer questions on the Minnesota Department of Transportation right of way resolution.

10-28-03-02 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Anderson to approve the consent agenda as presented, consisting of the October 14, 2003 minutes and the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the County of Yellow Medicine desires to establish a snowmobile trail on Minnesota Department of Transportation right of way;

NOW THEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the County Board of Commissioners of Yellow Medicine County that the Board Chairman and Administrator are hereby authorized and directed to execute a Limited Use Permit, with the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation, for the purpose of establishing a snowmobile trail on Minnesota Department of Transportation right of way.

Carried.

Under board and committee reports, Mr. Anderson updated the Board on the County recycling contract and Drug Task Force activities. Ms. Remiger commented on the Engineer/Administrator Management Group and a railroad meeting. Mr. Sherlin noted that Redball had applied through the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission (UMVRDC) for a revolving loan fund loan. They have been a solid company with an excellent repayment history on past development loans. He also commented on Prairie Waters and the excessive cost of their Web hosting. Mr. Johnson added that several counties had cut contributions to Prairie Waters, possibly jeopardizing their future operations. The UMVRDC has also lost almost \$14,000 in funding because of decreased levies and valuations. He noted that a Transportation Advisory Committee meeting will be held on November 13th; the JOBZ application is substantially completed; November 19th is GIS Day at the UMVRDC; Pioneerland Library is reducing the size of their board; and the Canby library desires to opt out of the Pioneerland system.

There were no citizens present to be heard.

Engineer John Johnson and General Foreman Larry Stoks were present to discuss the highway department agenda. Mr. Johnson noted that the aggregate tax issue is still being considered but additional information is being sought. He also presented a resolution requesting an aggregate resource study by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Mr. Sherlin suggested that adequate information is currently available through the ASCS office and moved to deny the request for adoption. After additional

discussion, the motion died for lack of a second. Mr. Johnson was asked to obtain additional information on the study and the resolution will be reconsidered at the next meeting.

10-28-03-03 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Antony to approve a final payment of \$24,930.54 to Duinick Brothers, Inc. for SAP 87-644-03 (CSAH 44 grading and surfacing). Carried.

A budgeted expansion of the Clarkfield highway facility was discussed. It was put on hold earlier in the year because of unallotment of state funds.

10-28-03-04 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Mr. Anderson to proceed with the \$150,000 expansion to the Clarkfield facility out of building fund reserves. Carried.

A tandem axle truck had also been budgeted and put on hold. A 1985 truck would be taken out of service. An additional request to purchase a lowboy trailer, within the allotted budget, was also made.

10-28-03-05 Motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Ms. Remiger to purchase a new tandem axle truck and lowboy trailer out of the equipment fund, budgeted for \$153,163. Carried.

10-28-03-06 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Ms. Remiger to authorize the advertising for bids for the Porter and Hazel Run street projects with a bid letting set for December 23, 2003 at 1:00 p.m. Carried.

Engineer Johnson commented that he and Custodian Curt Johnson had met to work out snow removal for the courthouse parking lots. A skid loader will be housed at the courthouse and accumulated piles removed by the highway department as needed.

10-28-03-07 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Antony to provide engineering services for the Custer Avenue bridge project in Canby at 75% of the County's cost. Carried.

Chairman Johnson called for a lunch recess at noon and reconvened the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

A letter from Yellow Medicine East High School Principal Karen Norell requesting designated parking spaces for visitor parking in both Granite Falls, on 9th Avenue, and Clarkfield, on County Road 18, was considered. Three spaces would be marked in Granite Falls and two in Clarkfield. The highway department had no objection to the designations.

10-28-03-08 Motion by Ms. Remiger and second by Mr. Anderson to approve of the visitor parking space designations as requested. Carried.

10-28-03-09 Motion by Mr. Antony and second by Ms. Remiger to approve an emergency management request for approximately \$1,800 to purchase a laminator and supplies out of available grant funds. Carried.

A recommendation for Brent Riess to become the new Planning and Zoning Director was discussed. Mr. Anderson, Ms. Remiger, and Mr. Chattin interviewed three candidates on October 23rd, out of a pool of eleven who applied. Mr. Riess was the preferred candidate. He was requesting a \$38,000 to \$42,000 annual salary. Mr. Chattin recommended offering the position to Mr. Riess.

10-28-03-10 Motion by Ms. Remiger and second by Mr. Anderson to offer the Planning and Zoning Director position to Brent Riess at \$36,000 to start increasing to \$38,000 annually upon successful completion of a six month probationary period. Carried.

10-28-03-11 Motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Mr. Sherlin to approve the County Administrator job description as presented. Carried.

It was noted that the Board can review and revise job descriptions as needed.

Operating guidelines for a proposed Labor Management Committee were reviewed. This committee would consider and make recommendations on most personnel issues.

10-28-03-12 Motion by Ms. Remiger and second by Mr. Antony to adopt the Yellow Medicine County Labor Management Committee Operating Guidelines as presented. Carried.

10-28-03-13 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Ms. Remiger to appoint Mr. Antony and Mr. Anderson as Board representatives to the Labor Management Committee and to pay per diems for attending the meetings. Carried with Mr. Anderson voting against the motion.

County Attorney Tom Kramer and MCIT counsel Scott Anderson were present to discuss pending litigation.

10-28-03-14 Motion by Ms. Remiger and second by Mr. Anderson to close the meeting at 1:32 p.m. to consider pending litigation. Carried.

Mr. Johnson reopened the meeting at 2:21 p.m.

Jim Lee, of Lee & Berner, Ltd., presented an engagement letter designating his firm as the administrator for the County's flex benefit plan. They were the plan administrators in 2003 and no changes were being proposed.

10-28-03-15 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Antony to engage Lee & Berner, Ltd. as the County's flex plan administrators for 2004. Carried.

Brian Kletscher, Board Chairman, and John Mitchell, Environmental Director, both of Redwood County, gave a brief overview of the proposed Lamberton Waste to Energy project. They were seeking Board support for the project. There was considerable discussion over the future of waste management and what role this facility could play.

10-28-03-16 Motion by Mr. Anderson and second by Ms. Remiger to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Redwood County, in conjunction with the City of Lamberton and Minnesota's Office of Environmental Assistance, has studied the feasibility of a waste to energy facility for southwestern Minnesota following resolutions of interest from the counties of Cottonwood, Jackson, Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Yellow Medicine, Brown, Lyon, Kandiyohi, Watonwan, and Chippewa Counties; and

WHEREAS, twelve of the interested parties are members of the Southwest Regional Solid Waste Commission (Counties of Cottonwood, Jackson, Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, and Yellow Medicine) which is a joint powers board with the goal of fostering an integrated approach to solid waste management in the region that follows the order and preference of waste management strategies identified in Minnesota Statutes 115A.02; and

WHEREAS, the Feasibility Report has determined that there is sufficient waste in the region to develop a 330 tons per day materials recovery facility to remove glass and nonprocessibles and recycle ferrous, aluminum, and cardboard and combust the remaining 249 tons per day of garbage producing electricity and steam; and

WHEREAS, the Feasibility Report has identified a site west of Lamberton with highway and rail access and has identified a preliminary tipping fee of \$53/ton in 2007; and

WHEREAS, the next phase of the study requires technical and consultant assistance to advise the counties on technical matters, assist in negotiating a design and construction agreement and long term operating guarantees, and assist interested counties in considering waste assurance options for the facility so each county can contract to have the waste generated in its county processed at the Facility; and

WHEREAS, the cost for the next phase of the study to commence October 1, 2003 and be completed by January 1, 2004 is \$158,000 or \$9,300 funding from each interested county if all 17 counties participate;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Yellow Medicine County continue to support the next phase of the Lamberton Waste to Energy Facility Feasibility and pay to Redwood County \$9,300 as its share of the next phase of the study.

Carried.

Mr. Kramer updated the Board on County Attorney office activities.

Peggy Heglund, Family Services Director, joined the Board for a discussion on Area Agency on Aging (AAA). The UMRDC does not have an AAA Director, since Connie Nygard resigned. Region 9 is proposing that they be contracted with as the overall administrator for the AAA programs in Regions 6E, 6W, 8, and 9. However, this would have Region 6W paying a disproportionate share of the administrative costs and leave the Region 9 administration unaccountable. Mr. Johnson will be working with Mr. Chattin to prepare an informative letter for Region 6E and 6W Commissioners. A proposed resolution supporting a central governing body and centralized, accountable administration will likely be part of that information.

Auditor Carolyn Sherlin answered several questions on the disbursements presented for payment.

10-28-03-17 Motion by Ms. Remiger and second by Mr. Sherlin to pay the disbursements as presented totaling: Revenue Fund - \$37,128.54; Road & Bridge Fund - \$13,463.33; and Ditch Fund - \$3,510.28. Carried.

Mr. Chattin updated the Board on several issues including: the County's investment policy; combining the Auditor and Treasurer positions; a stipulation agreement with AFSCME on a proposed courthouse collective bargaining unit; a hold on a request for land by Community Ed; inquiries into purchasing the Clarkfield building (housing planning and zoning and Extension services); progress on the budget; accepting credit cards; and items to be included in the agenda packet.

10-28-03-18 Motion by Mr. Sherlin and second by Mr. Antony to adjourn the meeting at 3:30 p.m. Carried.

Witness:

Gary Johnson, Chairman

Attest:

John Chattin, County Administrator